

Message Text

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ORIGIN ABF-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 A-01 /029 R

DRAFTED BY A/BF/OAG:JHSOUTHERLAND:STP
APPROVED BY A/BF/OAG:JHSOUTHERLAND
EUR/NE:RWOODS
IO/IBC/BA:WSOUTHWORTH

-----058933 150145Z /61

R 141950Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
INFO AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

UNCLAS STATE 151103

FRANKFURT FOR EDER GAO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AGAO, SWEL, TBIO

SUBJECT: GAO REVIEW: "OBSTETRICAL PRACTICES AND STEPS TAKEN
TO REDUCE INFANT MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY"

1. THE GAO HAS INFORMED THE DEPARTMENT THAT IT WISHES TO
UNDERTAKE SUBJECT REVIEW TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON INFANT
MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY IN SELECTED FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND
HOW SOME OF THESE COUNTRIES HAVE PROGRESSED IN IMPROVING
PREGNANCY OUTCOME. THE GAO IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN
DETERMINING WHETHER SUBSTANTIVE DIFFERENCES EXIST BETWEEN
OBSTETRICAL PRACTICES IN THE U.S. AND THOSE IN FOREIGN
COUNTRIES AND IF SO, WHY. SPECIFICALLY, IT WANTS TO
DETERMINE:

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-- THE EXTENT TO WHICH CERTAIN OBSTETRICAL PRACTICES ARE
USED IN SELECTED COUNTRIES,

-- WHY CERTAIN PRACTICES MAY NOT BE USED OR MAY BE RESTRICT-
ED IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES,

-- WHETHER SCIENTIFIC BASIS EXISTS TO SUPPORT THE USE OF THESE PRACTICES OR NON-USE OF OTHER PRACTICES WHICH ARE USED IN THE U.S.,

-- WHETHER OBSTETRICAL PRACTICE STANDARDS EXIST IN THE SPECIFIED COUNTRIES AND WHAT MEDICAL STUDENTS AND/OR MIDWIVES ARE TAUGHT ABOUT OBSTETRICAL PRACTICES, AND

-- IF SELECTED FOREIGN COUNTRIES EXPERIENCE THE SAME TYPES OF PROBLEMS AS AREAS IN THE U.S. WITH RESPECT TO POCKETS OF HIGH INFANT MORTALITY AND LACK OF ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE, SUCH AS PRENATAL CARE.

2. THE GAO WOULD LIKE TO INITIATE ITS FIELD WORK BETWEEN JULY 15 AND AUGUST 15, DATES OF VISITS WOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE CONCURRENCE OF ADDRESSEE POSTS, STARTING WITH THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION IN GENEVA FOLLOWED BY TRAVEL TO SWEDEN, ENGLAND AND THE NETHERLANDS. THE GAO ESTIMATES IT WILL REQUIRE 2 TO 3 WEEKS WORK IN EACH OF THE LATTER THREE COUNTRIES. THE ADDRESSEE POSTS' ASSISTANCE WILL BE APPRECIATED IN SETTING UP APPOINTMENTS WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE WHO IN GENEVA AND THE RESPECTIVE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS, MEDICAL SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS, AND NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL OBSTETRICAL ORGANIZATIONS. THE GAO IS AWARE THAT CONTACTS WITH FOREIGN OFFICIALS ARE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE AMBASSADOR, UNCLASSIFIED

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TO BE ARRANGED FOR BY THE EMBASSY AND EMBOFF TO ACCOMPANY, IF FEASIBLE.

3. THIS PROJECT WILL BE UNDER THE DIRECTION OF MR. BERNARD UNGAR, GAO/WASHINGTON, ASSISTED BY MS. JOAN HAWKINS OF THE WASHINGTON REGIONAL OFFICE. MR. JERRY DORRIS, GAO/FRANKFURT WILL SUPERVISE THE FRANKFURT SUPPORT STAFF. THE GAO EUROPEAN OFFICE IN FRANKFURT WILL PROVIDE FURTHER DETAILS REGARDING NAMES OF THE OTHER TEAM MEMBERS, ACTUAL VISIT DATES, TRAVEL PLANS, AND HOTEL REQUIREMENTS AS SOON AS THIS INFORMATION IS KNOWN. GAO IS AWARE THAT LONDON WILL BE INSPECTED DURING PERIOD 6/22 - 7/28 AND WILL PLAN ITS ITINERARY TO ARRIVE AFTER JULY 28TH.

4. IT IS THE DEPARTMENT'S POLICY TO BE OF ASSISTANCE TO THE GAO AND TO BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE WITHIN THE GUIDELINES OF 4 FAM 930-934. ANY QUESTIONS OR PROBLEMS THAT SHOULD ARISE DURING THE COURSE OF THE VISIT SHOULD BE REFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENT.

5. THE GAO RECOGNIZES THAT PROPOSED VISITS COINCIDE WITH

SUMMER VACATION PERIOD AND THAT IT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT TO
OBTAIN APPOINTMENTS WITH PRINCIPALS IN CHARGE OF THE
GOVERNMENT MEDICAL FACILITIES AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS
MENTIONED IN PARA 2. IN THOSE CASES, THEY WILL BE
WILLING TO MEET WITH KNOWLEDGEABLE DEPUTIES OR SENIOR
OFFICIALS. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEDICAL CARE, CHILDREN, SURVEYS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE151103
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JHSOUTHERLAND:STP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780249-0434
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780659/aaaabyvx.tel
Line Count: 122
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5c79e888-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ABF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2349530
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GAO REVIEW: \"OBSTETRICAL PRACTICES AND STEPS TAKEN TO REDUCE INFANT MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY\"
TAGS: AGAO, SWEL, TBIO
To: GENEVA STOCKHOLM MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5c79e888-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014